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Newsletter

April 2021

Dear In Home Care Educators,

It is hard to believe that the school holidays are upon us already! We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed a little down time!

We thank each of you for supporting the families who utilise In Home Care across Tasmania. We value the connections we have with IHC educators and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with families, IHC Service Providers and yourselves to ensure IHC across Tasmania continues to grow and provide quality education and care for children and families.

# Speech, Language and Communication Milestones.



Over the next few issues of our newsletter, we will be focusing on different areas of development and providing you with resources to support your work with children and families. We start the 'child development' series with 'speech and language development'.

Speech, language and communication are crucial to young children's overall development. Being able to speak clearly and process speech sounds, to understand others, to express ideas and interact with others are fundamental building blocks for a child's development. Research suggests that good communication, language and literacy at a young age,

correlates with positive outcomes at school.

Speech and language skills underpin many other areas of children's development by:

- providing a strong foundation for other areas of learning, such as reading and writing
- promoting social skills and forming friendships and relationships
- building confidence and self esteem
- supporting social and emotional development
- helping children to make sense of the world around them.

We have included a link below to a wonderful resource from Speech Pathology Australia. It is an easy way to examine the way in which children communicate, and potentially identify any areas of concern. It is in an easy to read format and also contains contact details for Speech Pathology Australia.

https://speechpathologyaustralia.cld.bz/Communication-Milestones-A4-sheets

For access to further speech and language fact sheets and information; <a href="https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/">https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/</a>

## **Outdoor Play during Winter**

The colder months are also rapidly approaching, so we have included placed a link to a great article highlighting the importance of outdoor play in winter. There are so many benefits of spending time outdoors, even during winter!

http://thespoke.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/importance-outdoor-play-winter/

# IHC Support Agency Tasmania staffing

To appropriately support the evergrowing number of IHC families across Tasmania, we have restructured IHC Support Agency administration role to increase our responsiveness to phone calls and emails across each week. Whilst we aim to ensure either Natalie or Roxanne are available to respond to phone calls and emails each day, there will be times when you may need to leave a message with another staff member. Please be assured either Natalie or Roxanne will return your call as soon as possible.

### **FASD Training**

FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) in partnership with Inclusion Agency Tasmania, Gowrie Training & Counsultancy, have organised a professional development session facilitated by Adelle Rist from FASD Tasmania.

The presentation will include:

- Overview of FASD context the impact of alcohol in society and particularly women's use; the impact of alcohol at a cellular level and epigenetics; prevalence (international, national and state rates), Australian diagnostic instrument and diagnostic process.
- Presentation of FASD impact on development – brain and physical – presenting difficulties across the lifespan, identifying risk factors.
- Strategies to support the inclusion of children (FASD) within daily education and care programs

Cost: \$30 (exclusive GST)

**Hobart:** 

When: Thursday 6th May 9.30am-

11.30am

**Venue:** Mary Gibson Training Room, Lady Gowrie Tasmania Integrated Centre 269 Davey Street, South Hobart.

#### **ECA Conference**

The Early Childhood Australia National Conference was unfortunately postponed in 2020 but is set to make it's return in April 2021, with the theme being 'Young Citizens: the right to play, learn and be heard.' Celebrating young children as citizens with rights, the conference will explore how these rights can be supported and respected, particularly through play, play based pedagogy, and child informed practice.

For more information: <a href="https://www.ecaconference.com.au/">https://www.ecaconference.com.au/</a>

## **Educators Required**

With many new families looking to commence IHC in 2021, all Tasmanian IHC Service Providers are eagerly seeking to grow their educator numbers to meet continuing demand. If you know any qualified early childhood educators (Cert III and above), someone who is looking to start their qualification or someone considering a new career path, please ask them to contact our IHC Service Providers (Wanslea IHC, Placement Solutions or Leor In Home Early Learning) or IHC Support Agency Tasmania and we can provide prospective educators with contact information for each of our Tasmanian IHC Service Providers.

# Advising IHC Support Agency of IHC bookings for families who work on a variable roster.

We remind educators to please email the IHC Support Agency with your upcoming IHC bookings, dates and hours for families who work on a variable roster (different days/hours each week or fortnight). Whilst we understand this is not part of your responsibility, busy families often forget to inform the IHC Support Agency of changes to their IHC needs, in

particular, an extra shift etc. By dropping us an email to let us know your upcoming bookings with individual families who work variable rosters, ensures IHC Support Agency is aware and can approve the correct amount of IHC hours for any individual week/fortnight. It also assists to report accurate usage of In Home Care places to the Australian Government.

#### Email:

info@ihcsupportagencytas.com.au or ihc.admin@ihcsupportagencytas.com.au

Roxanne, Natalie and the In Home Care Support Agency Tasmania Team